

imprints

The Newsletter of Literacy BC

Message from the New Minister

Shirley Bond was appointed Minister of Advanced Education on June 5, 2001. She was elected in 2001 to represent the riding of Prince George-Mount Robson.

Before her election to the Legislative Assembly, she served three terms on the Prince George School Board, the last as chair. She also worked with the continuing education department of the Prince George School District, becoming its business manager. She was given the B.C. Interior, North & Yukon Woman of Distinction Award for her work in public education.

Ms. Bond has a two-year arts and science diploma from the College of New Caledonia and is enrolled at the University of Northern B.C., where she is completing a bachelor of arts in political science.



August 2001

As the new Minister responsible for Advanced Education, I am pleased to respond to the invitation of Literacy BC to provide a message for its members and newsletter readers. Literacy BC is well respected for its work, promoting and supporting literacy over the past decade, and I would like to congratulate you on the work you have accomplished in communities throughout British Columbia.

I am excited about my new responsibilities and the opportunity to work with Literacy BC and similar educational organizations. My experience with community education has confirmed my belief that education is the key to building strong communities. Literacy is an important component of developmental programs in the post-secondary education system. It provides adult students with the necessary foundational skills to access post-secondary education and training, as well as to improve employability skills and enhance personal development. In your communities, so many of you are contributing to this important work through your literacy programs and activities.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the board and staff of Literacy BC and to literacy practitioners. I look forward to working with you to build better lives for many British Columbians.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Bond".

Shirley Bond

Minister of Advanced Education

IN THIS ISSUE:

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...Literacy BC AGM & Bylaws

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...literacy.ca

...Federal Literacy Facts

News from Literacy BC...

Literacy's Time is Now!

Included with this issue of *Imprints* are the **Federal Literacy Facts** from the Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL). These news updates clearly outline the themes and activities emerging from the federal **Skills and Learning Agenda** announced in January 2001. We urge you to read these fact sheets. The opportunity for us to move the literacy issue forward has never been better!



Movement for Canadian Literacy *Literacy Action Campaign 2001*

Special issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** now online.

Read about MCL's Literacy Action Campaign 2001 and help us make the most of the current opportunity to move literacy ahead in Canada.

Access MCL's website at www.literacy.ca

MCL has prepared a **Literacy Action Campaign Toolkit** which provides templates and

sample outreach items to support local fall initiatives in the lead-up to **Literacy**

Action Day on Parliament Hill, October 25th.

This kit is now available from the MCL web site. The Tool Kit is full of valuable resources for you to use during your International Literacy Day activities and during the month of September. Please make use of this "window of opportunity" to encourage the support of your local MP and your community. This support is needed now to create a national literacy strategy.

Please join us...

Literacy BC Annual General Meeting

Friday, October 12, 2001

See the AGM insert mailed with this newsletter.



A HOLE-IN-ONE FOR LITERACY

ALMOST \$34,000 WAS RAISED FOR LITERACY BC AT THE 11TH ANNUAL PGI GOLF TOURNAMENT ON JULY 11.

THANK YOU TO ALL PARTICIPANTS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS AND THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS.

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A warm and special thank you to our host Peter Mansbridge

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Wedgewood Hotel
Gotham Steakhouse & Cocktail Bar

The PGIs gratefully acknowledge the generous support of the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resources Development Canada and ABC CANADA

Calendar of Events

Starbucks All Books for Children (ABC)
– Launch of the ABC Book Drive
Friday, September 7
Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch

Annual Starbucks campaign to encourage customers to drop off new or gently used children's books to support family literacy programs in their community.



31st International Literacy Day
Saturday, September 8

To assist community groups with promotional materials, The Movement for Canadian Literacy (MCL) has developed a Local Initiatives Tool Kit in electronic form — find it at www.literacy.ca at the end of August.

The Knowledge Network's Family Day
Sunday, September 9
4355 Mathissi Place, Burnaby

Family Day is a unique community event that offers a full day of fun and learning for the whole family.

Canada Post Literacy Awards
September 12 in Victoria



The Awards recognize individuals and organizations for their exceptional work in four categories: Individual Literacy Achievement, Educator, Community Leadership and Business Leadership. The B.C. awards ceremony will take place in Victoria at the Harbourside Rotary Club. (Literacy BC will have details on the winners in our next newsletter).

PACE Bursary Fund
application deadline
September 30

The PACE bursary is open to part-time adult learners who are BC residents. To apply, contact your educational institution or the PACE Bursary Fund at Literacy BC. Call 1-800-663-1293.



Calendar of Events

THE WORD ON THE STREET

**Word on the Street Book
and Magazine Fair**
*Sunday, September 30 at Library Square
and CBC Plaza, Vancouver*

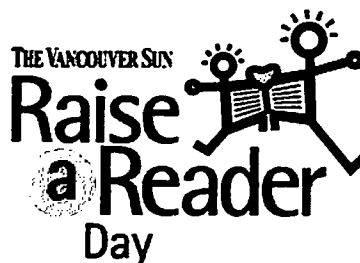
This year ... look for The Vancouver Sun Literacy Lane and the Starbucks Family Literacy Tent . Check out **Canada Post Place**, where you can send a postcard to someone who turned you on to reading, and **The Vancouver Sun Raise-A-Reader Corner**, with animated storytelling by Lower Mainland children's librarians.

Full details are available on the WOTS website at:
www.canada.com/wots/2000/vancouver.

Literacy BC Annual General Meeting
October 12
at the Executive Inn, Vancouver



The Vancouver Sun's Raise-A-Reader Day
Wednesday, October 17



Literacy Action Day
October 25

Representatives of Canada's literacy community converge on Ottawa for Literacy Action Day (LAD). The aim of LAD is to raise awareness and support for the literacy agenda among federal politicians and policy-makers. For details, go to the MCL website at www.literacy.ca.



Movement for Canadian Literacy *Literacy Action Campaign 2001*

Look what's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

***Patterns of Participation in Canadian Literacy and Upgrading Programs: Results of a National Follow-up Study.* Ellen Long with Sandy Middleton. ABC CANADA in partnership with Literacy BC. 2001.**

The results of a national follow-up study about participation in literacy education in Canada have been recently published. *Patterns of Participation in Canadian Literacy and Upgrading Programs* guides our understanding of the conditions which promote or deter successful participation. The study findings are based on follow-up phone interviews with 338 people who initially called one of 55 literacy groups in Canada seeking information or services.

The study reveals critical problems with access to literacy and upgrading education. For example, fewer than half of those who attempted to access

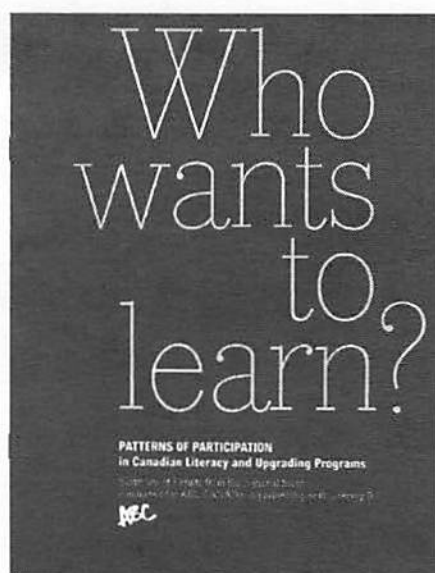
services were able to enrol. Program/policy-related barriers were the main

deterrents for the largest percentage of potential learners, many of whom were not called back after contacting a program or encountered long waiting lists, inconvenient class locations and times, wrong content or teaching structure, and fees for the program or tutor.

When people did manage to enrol in programs, they ran an obstacle course of socioeconomic and circumstantial barriers that ultimately led more than a third to drop out.

This study provides important information about the demand for literacy services in Canada and raises key questions about our capacity to meet both the current and the potential demand.

Copies of the report, and the summary report, *Who Wants to Learn*, are available from Literacy BC.

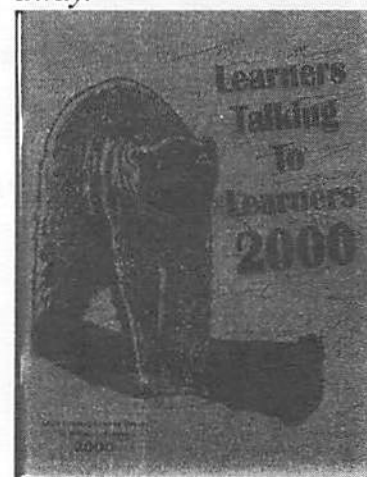


Learners Talking to Learners. Adult Literacy Learner Events.

A literacy cost-shared project. 2000.

Learners Talking to Learners is a collection of reports about Learner Events. These events give learners an opportunity to share their ideas and experiences and to learn new things.

Workshops, conferences, field trips and other "learning adventures" are planned by a group of learners with support from their instructors. There are many useful ideas in this book, including two pages of ideas on how to decide what kind of event to hold and how to plan, organize and enjoy the event. ***We have many copies to give away.***



Please join us



Annual General Meeting

Friday, October 12, 2001

4:30 to 6:30 pm

Executive Inn

1379 Howe Street

Vancouver, B.C.

- ☐ Special guest, Lianne Vardy, Director, the National Literacy Secretariat, will speak about the federal *Skills and Learning Agenda*.
- ☐ Meet federal and provincial representatives, literacy practitioners from across B.C. and the new Literacy BC Board of Directors for 2001 - 02.
- ☐ Enjoy a wine and cheese reception and celebrate another successful year for literacy in B.C.

Please RSVP by September 28, 2001

Call 1-800-663-1293

(toll free in B.C.) or

Fax (604) 684-8520

email: literacy_bc@douglas.bc.ca

See Over

NOTICE OF MOTION

Changes to the ByLaws of LBCS Literacy BC Society

This motion, to amend the ByLaws of
LBCS Literacy BC Society, will be presented at the
Annual General Meeting, Friday, October 12, 2001.

MOTION:

That the members approve the following change:

1. That **Section 17 (2) (a)** be deleted and replaced by:

No one may be appointed as Director at Large for
more than four consecutive terms.



Federal Literacy Facts

an update on literacy-related developments at the national level

Movement for Canadian Literacy

June 2001

Friends:

*Welcome to another issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** – MCL's electronic newsletter updating you on federal developments that affect the literacy community.*

In the April issue we introduced the national "learning and skills initiative" announced in January's Speech from the Throne, and asked for your input on the key messages MCL should bring forward as the initiative is developed. That issue, along with a special request for feedback from learners, is posted on our website. The feedback so far has been very helpful, and for those who have not responded, it's not too late! The more we hear from you, the more "grounded" our input will be.

In this issue, we provide an overview of what the Minister responsible for the initiative, Human Resources & Development Minister Jane Stewart, has been saying about the skills and learning agenda in general and literacy in particular.

We'll continue to keep you posted as this important policy development process unfolds.

Wendy DesBrisay
Executive Director, MCL

What the Minister has been saying about literacy and the skills agenda

In the consultative phase of the skills initiative, Minister Stewart has participated in informal consultations across the country, as well as three formal roundtables. The first roundtable, in February, focused on labour market productivity and was hosted by the Centre for the Study of Living Standards. The second, in March, focused on learning and was hosted by the Canadian Policy Research Network. The third, in April, focused on innovation and skills for the new economy and was hosted by the Conference Board of Canada. (See page 2 for a link to the Minister's speeches at these roundtables.)

The agendas for these roundtables extended beyond literacy to broader issues related to labour market efficiency and meeting the demands of the new economy. Nevertheless, literacy remained a focal point. Here's what Minister Stewart had to say about literacy in Halifax in May, in a speech that summed up some of her findings to date:

"But as we identify the skills that are necessary in the 21st century sector by sector, we do have to talk about literacy ... whether you're talking about learning or whether you're talking about entrepreneurship, the question of literacy comes up."

"Did you know that eight million Canadians do not have the minimum levels of literacy and numeracy to fully participate in today's economy? It's crazy. This is the challenge where the Government of Canada and the provinces really have to sit down and work together. It's foundational, it's fundamental, it's an area that we can describe very well but that we don't have the best tools for."

More from the Minister...

Minister Stewart also spoke of the need to expand the current model of adult education:

"When we look at other skills gaps, we just don't have in Canada a good model of adult education, adult learning. We're good in the formal years, K to community college, university. We've got to do better but we've got it structured. We're now starting to begin to look at the early years, to determine what better roles and jobs we can provide for our youngest citizens. But we also have to look at adult learning, continuous learning."

"Typically it's been focused on getting those who weren't successful through their formal years, their grade 12 education ... we still have to do that and we have to be thoughtful in how we do that but we have to expand that model and build a culture of lifelong learning or of learning for life. And, it's going to be creatively developed but it has to be done across all jurisdictions."

In broader terms, the Minister spoke of the need to address the quantity and quality of our labour force by addressing three types of gaps: the "participation gap", the "skills gap" and the "attitudinal gap".

- **The participation gap** refers to improving linkages between the labour market and labour supply by addressing issues ranging from inclusion of marginalized Canadians to skills matching to labour mobility issues.
- **The skills gap** refers to where we are and where we need to be to fully adapt to, and take advantage of the new economy. The Minister targeted improved literacy as crucial to addressing this gap, as well as the need for better adult learning and continuous learning.
- **The attitudinal gap** refers to "the things we really need to change if we're going to enhance the lifelong learning culture in Canada". This ranged from nurturing a culture where learning is valued to renewing young peoples' interest in skills trades as their first option.

What's Next?

MCL has been invited to participate in an informal roundtable hosted by Senator Fairbairn on June 22. We're looking forward to this opportunity to discuss issues with the Senator, other representatives from national, provincial/territorial literacy organizations, and officials from the Minister's office, HRDC, and NLS.

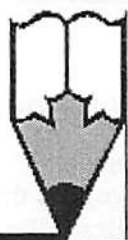
Among other things, we will be emphasizing some of the key points that we raised in our last *Federal Literacy Facts*, including the need for meaningful dialogue; a commitment to policy development on a basic literacy agenda; consistency in support of literacy programs; and national leadership and vision. We will also stress the point that it is not only for the labour market that our society needs to support lifelong learning for everyone -- literacy is for life! We will encourage the government to honour its promise to focus on economic and social development. *If you have suggestions, please get them to us (contact numbers below) or your coalition before the June 22 meeting.*

While gearing up for the spring consultations and beyond, MCL has been developing overview papers on literacy in relation to other areas of federal government responsibility. In addition, we have provided HRDC with a paper on workplace literacy, drawn from the thinking of business, labour and literacy representatives at last fall's National Summit on Literacy and Productivity; key interviews; and a review of the literature. *Literacy and the Canadian Workforce* will soon be available on the MCL website.

Watch future issues for an overview of our plans for Literacy Action Day 2001, October 25.

Want more information?

Minister Stewart's speeches on the Learning and Skills Agenda are online at:
www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/common/speeches/minhrdc/minsp.shtml



Federal Literacy Facts

an update on literacy-related developments at the national level

Movement for Canadian Literacy

July 1, 2001

Friends:

*This issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** reports on the informal Literacy Roundtable hosted by Senator Joyce Fairbairn in Ottawa on June 22.*

The roundtable gave representatives of national, provincial and territorial literacy organizations an opportunity to discuss the national Skills and Learning Agenda with officials from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) and the National Literacy Secretariat (NLS).

*Your response to the last two issues of **Federal Literacy Facts** helped shape our participation in the roundtable, and your input is still welcome as the process gathers momentum. As we said last time, the more we hear from you, the more "grounded" our input will be.*

The Skills and Learning Agenda will likely be a hot topic in discussions with MPs at the annual Literacy Action Day on October 25. We're hoping that literacy people across the country will link with their MPs earlier in the Fall. Tools to help you do this in a way that coordinates with our efforts at the national level will be available by the end of August. Stay tuned!

Wendy DesBrisay
Executive Director, MCL

Literacy's Time is Now!

Making the most of the Skills and Learning Agenda

On June 22nd, Senator Joyce Fairbairn, HRDC Minister Jane Stewart's Special Advisor on Literacy, hosted an informal Literacy Roundtable in Ottawa. It was a productive meeting that gave leaders of national, provincial and territorial literacy organizations the chance to engage in a dialogue with the Senator and senior government officials responsible for moving the Skills and Learning Initiative forward.

In her welcoming address, Senator Fairbairn said although there have been significant advances in literacy support over the years, this is the first time literacy has been given this kind of prominence. She urged us to make the most of this opportunity.

The roundtable made it very clear that this is our "window of opportunity" – our chance to call for significant budgetary commitments and policy advances on the literacy agenda.

While no political decisions have been made on the funding or time frame for the Skills and Learning Initiative, HRDC officials said they will be developing a vision statement in the coming months. Although the dialogue is still in its early stages, "the pressure is on."

The literacy community needs to work diligently to shape its priorities and vision for a national literacy strategy and to share and promote those priorities with decision-makers.

Literacy's time is NOW!

Roundtable identifies key literacy challenges and issues

Senior government officials opened the roundtable by outlining the pressing need to develop a learning culture in Canada, and the challenges that stand in the way of this goal. Here are some of the points that set the scene:

- In spite of the economic boom, “pockets of exclusion” seem to be growing. This points to serious structural problems.
- Many current and new workers need help to meet the challenges of the new knowledge-based economy.
- Gaps in the learning system – particularly for adults who have not completed high school – are leaving too many people behind. We need to turn this “vicious cycle” into a “virtuous cycle of learning” ranging from literacy to accessible, high-quality post-secondary education.

Seven key literacy issues

After the presentations from senior officials, each literacy organization was asked to identify the issues most crucial to the development of a literacy strategy from their perspective. The result was 90 items on a flipchart, but most could be grouped under a dozen or so themes. There was a high degree of agreement on the issues. The officials assured us they were taking note of every word.

Participants were then invited to “vote” for their top priorities among the issues listed. These were the priority areas identified:

1. Funding
2. A multi-stakeholder national literacy strategy
3. Literacy as community development
4. Family literacy
5. Overcoming barriers
6. Basing literacy and learning in culture
7. Creating a learning society / culture in Canada

The challenge for the last part of the roundtable session was to develop an “action plan” related to each of these seven areas: who needs to do what, when, etc. It was clear that more time was needed to consult and to respond.

The Way Forward

More consultations are planned

Officials say this is just the beginning of the dialogue. Up to this point, there have been three consultative sessions specific to literacy. The first was an informal roundtable with HRDC Minister Jane Stewart and literacy advocates in early March. The second was a meeting with provincial/territorial literacy coordinators in June. The third was this informal roundtable hosted by Senator Fairbairn. As well, the MCL Board met with HRDC and NLS officials in early March, and I’m happy to report that much of our input at that time was reflected in presentations by the senior officials on June 22.

We were assured that as this process unfolds there are roles for all of us: “those who teach, those who learn, and those who promote”. Senator Fairbairn also emphasized that learners’ input is key.

Next Steps

1. MCL will be developing recommendations for the seven action areas identified at the roundtable. We will also be developing a broader action plan, or “wish list” related to a national literacy strategy.
2. Decision-makers need to hear from the literacy community while the “window of opportunity” is open. Senator Fairbairn suggested that even before Literacy Action Day on Oct. 25, we should help our MPs to “see and hear literacy”. MCL is working on a tool kit to help you to do just that beginning around International Literacy Day (September 8). *Stay tuned!*
3. Calling all learners! Senator Fairbairn has asked for advice on how best to include learners in the dialogue. By the way, the response to the learner questionnaire on MCL’s website has been terrific, and it’s not too late to send yours in.

Contact us

If you have questions about the June 22 Roundtable or suggestions related to the seven action areas, a national literacy strategy “wish list”, or ways to involve learners, MCL would like to hear from you (contact numbers below).



Federal Literacy Facts

an update on literacy-related developments at the national level

SPECIAL ISSUE: MCL Fall Literacy Action Campaign

Movement for Canadian Literacy

August 2001

Friends:

*This issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** outlines MCL's Fall 2001 Literacy Action Campaign and how you can get involved.*

September is always a key month in the literacy calendar. International Literacy day falls on September 8th. The second week of September is both International Literacy Week and International Adult Learners' Week. And of course millions of Canadians of all ages return to school in September. This Fall we are especially excited because the federal government is working to fulfill a promise it made in the Spring 2001 Speech from the Throne to develop a new national vision and agenda for skills and learning in Canada.

*Right now literacy has a window of opportunity that has never been there before. It's up to us - teachers, learners, facilitators and promoters - to make the most of it. In this issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** you'll learn about MCL's Fall Literacy Action Campaign (including Literacy Action Day), and how to access tools to make your involvement quick and easy.*

Together we can make a difference!

*Wendy DesBrisay
Executive Director, MCL*

Let's seize the moment!

Over the past few months, MCL used **Federal Literacy Facts** to keep you posted on developments around the federal government's Skills and Learning Initiative (see previous issues under publications at www.literacy.ca). This time we're using it to urge you to get involved in a country-wide Literacy Action Campaign.

With the Skills and Learning Initiative on the front burner, a number of dates commemorating literacy internationally falling in September, and Literacy Action Day coming up on October 25th, this is a hot time for literacy.

That's why as part of gearing up for the annual **Literacy Action Day** on Parliament Hill, MCL has developed a **Fall 2001 Literacy Action Campaign**. Our hope is to make literacy "come alive" for MPs in their communities so that they will make it a priority when they return to Ottawa for the new parliamentary session. By getting involved, you'll be helping advance a literacy agenda that is national in vision, but respectful of local expertise and realities. Most important of all, you'll be making sure your voice is heard by decision-makers at this time of literacy policy development.

MCL has developed a **Literacy Action Campaign Toolkit** to support you in building alliances with your local MPs this September. You'll find this electronic toolkit online at www.literacy.ca.

Read on for an overview of how you can help make the most of the current opportunity to help literacy in Canada "take a giant step".

Literacy Action Campaign Tool Kit

At the **Literacy Action Campaign 2001** link on the MCL website (www.literacy.ca), you'll find a variety of resources to help you connect with your local MP in September.

Under "**What literacy workers/programs can do**" you'll find:

- a **campaign letter** that we hope each of you will personalize and send to your MP
- a list of other suggested activities for raising the issue this September, with links to more guides and templates

Under "**Resources to share with MPs**" you'll find:

- a list of things an MP can do to support literacy in their riding and in Ottawa
- a sample "feature article" on literacy that MPs can use in their constituency newsletter
- an announcement for Literacy Action Day 2001

Under "**How learners can get involved**" you'll find:

- information and ideas to help you celebrate International Literacy Day and Adult Learners' Week
- an invitation for learners to respond to the "*Adult Learners, what do you think*" survey, as well as a report on the first 100 responses
- a call for learner stories for the "Book of Changes" we are creating to show the personal, positive side of literacy on Literacy Action Day
- a link to the MCL Learners Advisory Network brochure "*What Adult Literacy Learners Would Like YOU to Know*"

As well, you'll find important **Background Materials** on literacy, a **Feedback section**, and **information on Literacy Action Day 2001**.

If you can only do one thing...

We realize how busy you are. *If you have time to do just one thing – please personalize and send the campaign letter to your MP.* * It contains key messages about literacy, the government's skills and learning initiative, publicizes Literacy Action Day, and pinpoints other important ways that each MP can support literacy. Our goal is to ensure that each of the 301 federal MPs receive this letter from members of their local literacy community. A few minutes out of your day could make a big difference.

If you are able to do more, please consider some of the other action ideas listed under "**What literacy workers/programs can do**" in the online toolkit.

Let us know how it goes!

Please tell us about your lobbying and public awareness activities this September using the "Feedback" section of the online toolkit. Fill in the form and send it to us electronically or by fax. Your feedback will help us fine-tune our plans for **Literacy Action Day (LAD) 2001** on October 25.

What's Next?

Along with our partners, we're gearing up for Literacy Action Day. Watch for a special issue of **Federal Literacy Facts** on LAD in a month or so. We're monitoring the federal Skills and Learning Initiative and will keep you posted on that too.

*** Need help getting info on your MP?**

You can find your MP's name and address on Canada's parliamentary website at www.parl.gc.ca.

Click on *English*, then *Senators and Members*, then *House of Commons/Current*, then *Find your Member of Parliament using your postal code*.

Look what's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

The five titles listed below are from a series of resources published by **Voices Rising/Learning at the Centre Press**, 2000. In 1998, The Learning Centre, an Edmonton community-based literacy and education agency, took part in the *Participatory Approaches in Adult Literacy Education / Research in Practice (PAALE/RIP)* project with the University of Alberta, funded by the NLS. Six practitioners and groups of adult students tried out participatory/research practices in their programs. The titles here are outcomes from these projects.

Learning About Participatory Approaches in Adult Literacy Education Six Research in Practice Studies.

Edited by Mary Norton and Grace Malicky.
This report documents the foundations and history of the PAALE/RIP project. The seven women adult educators who collaborated on the project describe it as a learning journey. "Over two years we traveled well-marked trails and charted new paths ... We were equipped with a range of experiences and perspectives, which we shared, extended and challenged throughout the trip. We were accompanied by other adult learners who were enrolled in the literacy programs where we worked or had affiliation... Through the research we learned more about participatory approaches, about our teaching practices and about ourselves."

Students Meeting Students: Putting a Student Conference Together

Learning Centre students document how they planned and organized their conference. All facets are covered, including arranging speakers, facilitators

and workshops, advertising and promoting the event, preparing schedules, registration, and conducting the evaluation.



Students Training Students: An Action Research Project to Help People Use Computers.

"The Learning Centre had computers but students weren't using them very much. We thought this was a problem and decided to do something about it." This



observation was the basis for this 13 page booklet, which includes the survey the group designed to find out why students had problems with computers, students' feelings about using computers, what they wanted to learn from them and what the group learned from their action research experience.

Fearless Freewriting

Sharron, Barb and Alice — the three women who share their stories, ideas and reflections in this booklet — want others to

see how much fun and how helpful writing can be. In *Fearless Freewriting* they invite you to put your writing fears aside, pick up a pencil and just write.

Freewriting is, "Putting words on paper without worrying about spelling or grammar or getting things right. You don't have to be afraid of freewriting. Freewriting is never right or wrong. It won't be corrected."

Sharron, Barb and Alice contribute seven examples of their work here.



Acimowina

Storytelling. Stories by students of the Stony Point Campus of Northern Lakes College, Alberta.

In *Acimowina* the First Nations people of Wabasca Demarais remember the past and share experiences about living in their community. Included are stories about interactions among family members, helping others in need and living with courage in isolated areas.

Acimowina invites readers to hear these stories and to tell their own.



Lookwhat's New

Resources

Resources

on our shelves...

Creating a Learning Culture in the Home. Trainer's Manual. Laubach Literacy of Canada

This is a compilation of three manuals developed from the Laubach *Creating a Learning Culture in the Home* workshop series

Family literacy practitioners will find a variety of information here including, Understanding the Reading Process, Stages of Becoming a Reader, How to Help Children Learn to Read, How Children Learn to Write, Language Games and Activities, and Homemade Books and Family Stories .

The manual also includes handouts, overheads, posters and a list of materials to assist in presenting the workshop.

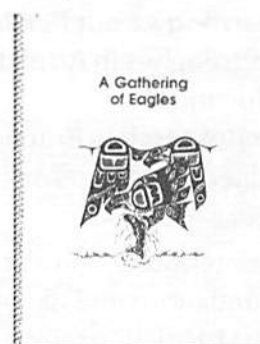
Highways of Learning: The Northern Lights College Story by Paul Dampier. Northern Lights College

Northern Lights College (NLC) traces its beginnings to a post-war military station in Dawson Creek, operational from 1956 to 1964. In the mid-1960's, the provincial government converted the station to the BC Vocational School - Dawson Creek. The college was created in 1975 to provide a broad range of post secondary educational opportunities in the northern third of B.C. *Highways of Learning* is the chronicle of this 35-year journey, written by the NLC Registrar, to celebrate the colleges' 25th anniversary. Illustrated with black and white photographs.

A Gathering of Eagles (Book and CD-Rom).

Open Learning Agency. A B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

A Gathering of Eagles is the story of the thousands of eagles that gather in the Squamish Valley every winter. Through interviews, First Nations people who have lived in the Valley most of their lives share the stories, songs, and spiritual relationship that they have with the eagle. The research in the book is a collaborative effort by First Nations elders, instructors and learners. The book is colourfully illustrated with photographs and First Nations artwork, and includes exercise questions and answers, a glossary of terms and an interactive CD-ROM.



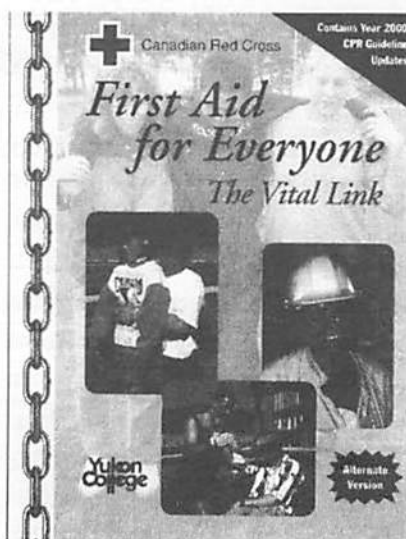
First Aid for Everyone - The Vital Link.

The Canadian Red Cross and Yukon College. 2000

This alternate version of the original Red Cross core first aid manual was inspired by a request from a Yukon College instructor who realized the need for a literacy/first aid resource while working with Developmental Studies students.

It is designed for those with a literacy level of grades 4 to 6 who would like to learn first aid in Canadian Red Cross courses such as Emergency or Standard First Aid.

Similar in content to the regular first aid manual, the book has sections on choking, breathing difficulties, heart and stroke emergencies, head and spinal injuries, and bone, muscle and joint injuries. It includes fully-illustrated practice sessions and three appendices on First Aid Supplies, Disaster Preparation, and First Aid Examination Questions. *First Aid for Everyone* can also be used as support material for regular first aid training courses.



Getting Out of the Way

by Kate Nonesuch

Last spring I moderated an on-line discussion on First Class called "Getting Out of the Way." The theme of the conference was power - the power we have as instructors, the power students have, and the dance of taking power, giving power and sharing power as individuals and in groups.

For six weeks we talked about our practice as instructors, tutors and administrators; for six weeks we talked personally about "striking a balance," and about "walking a fine line" in our attempts to provide leadership while leaving room for students also to lead. It made clear to me once again that teaching is an art, not a science. I want to share with you some of the strands of the discussion.

- **Language.** People talked about words that include and exclude, the power over words that teachers have and students usually do not, the importance of the language of silence, and of the things hidden in silence.
- **Leadership.** The leadership that the teacher provides as part of the contract between teacher and student, and the leadership students take as they strive to make schooling work for them. That leadership, contrasted with control, was everywhere in the discussion, as people strove for balance.
- **Resistance.** We looked at student resistance to programs

and teachers, at our own resistance when we have been students, and at our resistance to giving up the power that comes with being the one who is supposed to know, the teacher. Many of us gave examples of times when we thought we were giving up power, only to realize that we were still clinging to it, or that we were giving it away with one hand and taking it back with the other.

- **Practice.** I loved the practical sense of this discussion. People gave positive and negative examples from their own experience. As we talked about power and empowerment, we talked about our own practice as an example of our theory. This grounding in practicality kept us closer to understanding each other than a more general focus could.
- **Emotions.** One thing that struck me was how frequently the talk turned to emotions. Our own emotions were often front and centre - pride in our work, frustration at being unable to keep a balance, chagrin at the pettiness of our reactions when students really did take power, and joy, simple joy. Nobody who thinks teaching is "just a job" took part in this discussion; everyone was strongly connected to the work.

Frequently, too, it was honesty about emotions that made it possible to break through an impasse in power relationships. *"I told the learners how I was feeling..."* *"When they told me how they felt..."* The biggest emotion was trust: trust the learners, trust the process, trust our skills and experience, trust the learning.

It was the first time I had moderated a conference on line. I have facilitated many discussions where the participants sat in the same room for a couple of hours, but this, all of us at our separate computers, over a period of six weeks, and writing instead of talking, was something else. It is so much harder to write and polish in isolation instead of blurting out thoughts in the heat of debate. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to post their thoughts, and I would like to thank all the people who read the postings but didn't reply. Especially at the beginning, when postings were slow in coming, I took comfort in so many of you lurking.

Kate Nonesuch teaches at the Reading and Writing Centre, a storefront program of Cowichan Campus.

Copies of the conference transcripts are available from Literacy BC – call Sandy Middleton for more details.

THE LITERACY MATERIALS BULLETIN

Fall 2001

24

• instructors • tutors • learners • administrators • coordinators • librarians • resource centres • learning centres •

The Fall 2001 Literacy Materials Bulletin is out! This issue offers reviews of selected literacy materials including: a series of seven basic readers for adults who are learning to read, called *Grass Roots Readers* from Grass Roots Press; a National Film Board documentary called *My Name is Kabentiosta*, the story of a Mohawk woman and mother at the 78 day stand-off at Oka in 1990; the Lectra shareware program which allows beginning level students to read and reread text in many ways on the computer; and workbooks from the John Howard Society called *Stress, Anxiety and Depression* and *Understanding Anger*.

These and the other exemplary materials in the Fall 2001 Bulletin can be borrowed individually or, collectively through a new initiative called the Bulletin Book Bags. If you would like to see all the titles reviewed in the Fall 2001 issue, sign up for a Bulletin Book Bag! We'll send them to you to use in your classroom for five weeks.

To get on the list to receive a Fall 2001 Bulletin Book Bag, contact May Chan at Literacy BC.

Phone: 1-800-663-1293 or
email [Mchan@](mailto:Mchan@TheHub.capcollege.bc.ca)
TheHub.capcollege.bc.ca.

Last fall, Literacy BC and the *Literacy Materials Bulletin* Committee began a new partnership. Literacy BC now provides project management and administrative support to the LMB Committee. Our partnership has meant that Committee members can now spend more of their valuable time evaluating adult literacy resources. Through our collaboration, we have also developed new ideas to promote the LMB collection.

This year, we are saying goodbye to Evelyn Battell, editor and longtime member of the LMB committee. Evelyn's contributions to the *Bulletin* have been important to the growth of the publication. We have enjoyed working with Evelyn this past year and will miss her presence on the Committee.

At the same time, we welcome Debbie Booth-Johnson as the new editor. Debbie has already begun planning for the Spring 2002 issue! We look forward to working with Debbie and all the other committee members this coming year.



The 2001-2002 LMB Committee includes:

Debbie Booth-Johnson
Ruth Chambers
Claudia Mason
Nancy Ross
Ron Stinson
Joann Green
Rena Neufeld
Judy Rose
Arlee Schmidt

Celebrate International Year of Volunteers

2001 has been declared The International Year of Volunteers. Visit the official website at www.iyv2001.org and the Canadian IYV 2001 site at www.iyvcanada.org for valuable information and resources.

The Power of Many, a video from Volunteer Canada for IYV 2001, celebrates the unique

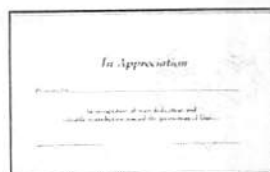
contributions volunteers make to Canadian society. This resource is available on loan from Literacy BC.

Did you know that **volunteers are active** in many community literacy groups and programs across B.C? To find out how you can help in your community call us at 1-800-663-1293.



REMINDER...We have Certificates for you

Literacy BC has Appreciation Certificates available for community groups to present to volunteer tutors and others who contribute their valuable services to literacy. We also have a supply of literacy pins for sale.



To order, call us at 1-800-663-1293.

A **Promotional Toolkit** from Community Literacy of Ontario is packed with resources to help you recognize and celebrate volunteers, including:

- Fact sheets — stats and information on volunteer topics
- Tip and Resource Sheets — ideas for helping you recruit, retain and recognize volunteers
- Sample Media Releases — tailor to your needs
- Eight sample full colour overheads — photocopy and use in presentations
- Electronic links to valuable websites
- A CD-ROM with electronic versions of everything in the kit, plus a PowerPoint presentation and links to literacy and volunteer web sites

The kit is \$25. To order contact Joanne Kaattari at Community Literacy of Ontario.

Email: kaattari@bconnex.net

Phone: 705-733-2312.

Fax: 705-733-6197

*Celebrating
Literacy Volunteers
in your community*

A Promotional
Toolkit

Community Literacy
of Ontario





LiteracyBC

Donor Appreciation

Thank you to the following individuals who have donated \$100 or more to Literacy BC:

Kate Nonesuch • John Grieve • Hydrecs Fund • Telus Employees
Peter Podovnikoff • Breen Egan • Georgina Brunette

And thank you to those who have contributed up to \$100:

Gilead Paritsky • Employees of Hewitt Associates
Employees of Surrey Metro Credit Union • Pamela Hansen

And a Special Thank You to Great Walk Donors

To raise donations for Literacy BC, **Ingrid Braathen**, a former Literacy BC Board member, successfully completed the 63.5 km **GREAT WALK between Tahsis and Gold River** on Vancouver Island. The following people donated a total of \$1169.25.

Paul Gallagher • Aldergrove Lions Club • Kinsmen Club of Langley
Alan Dolman • Michelle Walls • Sherry Everett • Muriel Seale • Lynn Sterling • Elaine Tinckler • Leslie Corra • Catherine Mackenzie • Susan Switzer • Martha Massey • Pam Bunce • Sharon Cunningham
Tony Reynolds • Mary Jean Cromb • Edith McInnes • Marjorie Wark
Grace Shentaler • Bill Trotter • Anna Lindsay • Jack E. Welsh • Fred & Trish McCaffray • Dave Barlow • Lois Barrett • T. Loudon • Vicki Austad • Debbie Demare • Sandy Middleton • Barbara McBride • Marina Niks

... a warm and special thank you to Ingrid for this incredible feat - and for her commitment and support.

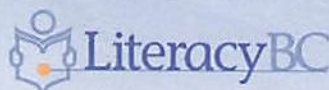
At a recent event for the book industry, **Raincoast Books** and the **Association of Book Publishers of B.C.** (ABPBC) raised significant donations for Literacy B.C.

We are very grateful to Raincoast Books for their efforts in encouraging a total of \$1200 in donations from the following.

Distican • HarperCollins • Random House • Penguin Books • Orca Books
University of Alberta Press • University of British Columbia Press
and CDG Books.

The ABPBC also raised funds from the Silent Auction they organized. Thank you!

This generous support from the book industry is encouraging and very much appreciated.



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Internet: www.nald.ca/lbc.htm

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